



Virginia Desorgher
Mayor

City of GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Members:

Passiglia, John, chair (2024)
Blagg, Tim (2026)
Mayo, Doug (2024)
Jones, Margo (2026)
David Brock (2023)
Abbey, Matt (2025)
Sarah Bolduc (2025)

Meeting Minutes for: 2/1/2024

Meeting began at: 5:00 p.m. at the Zon Center

Members present: John Passiglia, chair, Doug Mayo, Matt Abbey, Sarah Bolduc, Margo Jones, Dave Brock.

Visitors: Isaac Mass, building owner, Lou Hale, builder, re: Garden Cinema; Joseph White, artist; Jeremy Ebersole, interested new Greenfield resident with historical background and interest.

Minutes: January minutes approved.

New Business:

- Garden Theatre:** Owner Mass gave the board an update on latest smaller projects. Mr. Hale indicated that the sidewalk project had contributed to deterioration at the exterior storefronts due to higher elevation of sidewalk from tiled entries. Mr. Mass is asking for support of ticket booth reconstruction project, which is estimated to cost \$ 70,000. The original ticket booth was not found, but it wouldn't be accessible anyway. They would like letter of support from GHC for CPC application.
- JJ White art proposal:** Mr. White presented his art project based on the speech of Greta Thunberg in front of the UN Climate Action meeting in 2019, which he showed the commission. His art project is signage that says, "How Dare You?". He plans to add a QR code associated with it to tell the story of that speech clip that the sign alludes to. It is made up of reused, found pieces. The plan is to install it in a number of places, temporarily. No specific location yet. 17.5 ft. long, in 3 pieces. Dave indicated that GHC doesn't have relevant jurisdiction. Dave suggested he approach the Greenfield Cultural Council for support. He may need a sign permit also.
- City Records request for approval:** it has been determined that they need a more specific letter. The language has to align with CPA law. David read the recommended language, to wit, "I move that the GHC has determined that the historical and vital records held by the City of Greenfield as described in the Community Preservation Act application dated November 14, 2023, are significant in the history of Greenfield." And further that this Commission approves of the project to rebind those records. This statement was approved by those present unanimously. John will issue a letter to this effect.
- CPC projects:** Dave reported that there is \$ 335,000 to spend in total. 10% on history, 10% recreation, 10% housing. Dave reviewed:
 - Isaac Mass, \$ 35K, as discussed earlier.

- b. Clerk's office document rebinding, going back to 18th c., asking for \$ 75,000. Dave reports they said they are not able to digitize them because there would be personal information which should not be made public. [There was a sense of the meeting expressed that digitization is important and this might be done at a later time].
 - c. Wilson's: \$ 200K for restoration of storefront on ground floor. Have they asked us for a letter of approval? They made a major presentation to the commission earlier, but have not followed up with such a request.
 - d. Tim Grader has asked for upgrading the cornice at 278 Main St, for \$28K . Those last 2 are qualified by their inclusion in the Main St. Historic District.
- Action item: Dave will ask both projects to request our letter of support.

Old Business:

1. Survey & Planning grant: Phase One report was reviewed by MHC, discussed at a meeting, and the direction of the survey work approved. Phase 2 in process.
2. Demolition permit requests: John reported on the taking down of barns at 175 Cleveland St, at a house ca. 1810. Owner grew up in the house. Unfortunately the structures are collapsing and permit approved.
3. Vote on Garden Theatre project: the Commission will use same language as approved for the city records project; GHC approved unanimously.
4. Status of meeting locations: John reported that the GHC meetings will remain at the Zon center, and he will add a zoom link to provide digital access. He will also look into providing a TV monitor to overview the meeting.

The session was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for 5 p.m. on March 7, 2024 at the Zon Center.

Respectfully submitted, Margo Jones, acting secretary.